

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim and has been amended by this Amendment.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The Examiner asserts that the claim does not describe how or to what the functional element engages or how the functional element is outside the reflector opening.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the reflector has a continuous shell shape and that the edge is the edge of the shell shape. (See paragraphs 45-46 of the published version of the present application (US 2007/0189017)). Thus, the functional element engages the edge of the shell shape of the reflector. Furthermore, the claim clarifies that the edge defines the reflector opening, which provides a light opening. (See paragraph 46 of the published application). The light exits from inside the reflector opening to outside the reflector opening and, therefore, one skilled in the art would understand how the functional element is outside the reflector opening. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-7, 12-21 and 23-26 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Pub. No. 2002/013025 (“Zhang”). Claims 8-11 and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Zhang in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0158579 (“Kai”). Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Zhang in view of U.S. Pat. No. 2,025,819 (“Levy”).

Discussion of Disclosed Embodiments

The following descriptive details are based on the specification. They are provided only for the convenience of the Examiner as part of the discussion presented herein, and are not intended to argue limitations which are unclaimed.

Applicant's disclosed embodiments are directed to a lamp (10) comprising at least one base (11) (See paragraph 44 and Fig. 1 of the published version of the present application (US 2007/0189017)). The base (11) is joined to a light, and a dome-shaped, in particular dish-shaped, essentially rotationally symmetrical reflector (13), which has a continuous shell shape. The reflector (13) has an edge (16) bordering an opening (15) which comprises a light exit plane (E) for the lamp (10). (See paragraph 46 and Fig. 1). The light source is formed by at least one LED (20,20a,20b,20c) and is arranged at a distance from the inner side (14) of the reflector. At least one functional element of the LED, in particular at least one voltage supply line (21a,21b,21c,21d) of the LED and/or at least one cooling body (29,30a,30b,30c,30d) for the LED, extends at least partially essentially along the light exit plane (E) or is arranged at least partially on the side of the light exit plane (E) which is oriented away from the reflector (13), i.e., outside of the opening.

The functional element engages around at the edge (16) of the curved, essentially rotationally symmetrical reflector outside of the reflector opening, i.e., at or above the light exit plane (E). (See paragraph 51 and Figs. 1-2). In particular, as shown in Applicant's Figs. 1 and 2, and referring to voltage line 21a as the functional element, voltage line 21a engages at and around the edge region 22 of the cover element 17 and the edge region 16 of the reflector 13.

Accordingly, Applicant's disclosed embodiments do not have a gap between where the functional element engages and the edge of the cover element 17 and the reflector 13.

Arguments

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite "an edge of the continuous shell shape of the reflector defining a reflector opening which provides a light exit plane of the lamp" and "wherein the at least one functional element engages and extends around the edge of the continuous shell shape of the curved, essentially rotationally symmetrical reflector outside of the reflector opening". Support for the amendments to claim 1 is found at least in paragraph 51 of Applicant's published application and Applicant's Figs. 1 and 2. The art cited by the Examiner fails to disclose, teach or suggest the above-recited features of Applicant's claimed invention.

AS described in more detail below, Zhang fails to teach or suggest the above limitations because Zhang fails to teach or suggest functional elements that engage around the edge of the continuous shell shape of the reflector. In contrast, the arms 311, 312 (considered to be the claimed functional element by the Examiner) engage supporting walls 12 which are connected to the reflecting member.

Zhang discloses in Figs. 1-3 a light source arrangement that comprises a cell body 10, a light source unit 20 and a supporting frame 30. Zhang describes in paragraph [0026] that the cell body 10 has a semi-spherical reflective cavity 13 defined and surrounded by a concave light projecting surface 14, and that the light source unit 20 comprises at least two terminal electrodes 201, 202 and at least a luminary element 21 for emitting light when the terminal electrodes 201, 202 are electrified. Paragraph [0027] of Zhang explains that the supporting frame 30 comprises a supporting bridge 31, which has a thin thickness and a predetermined width functioning as a

heat sink, riding across an opening 131 of the reflective cavity 13 of the cell body 10 to support the light source unit 20 at a focus point of the concave light projecting surface 14 for emitting light towards the concave light projecting surface 14. Zhang discloses in Fig. 1 and in paragraph [0028] that the cell body 10 comprises a bowl shaped reflecting member 11 and four supporting walls 12 integrally and perpendicularly connected together to form a box shape structure. Supporting arms 311, 312 of the supporting frame 30 are mounted on the cell body 10 in four top slots formed at four corners of the square cell body 10 in Fig. 1 of Zhang. Alternatively in Zhang, six horizontal supporting arms are mounted a six top slots at corners of the cell body 10" in Fig. 7 of Zhang. Accordingly, the supporting arms of Zhang are engaged at the corners of the polygonal cell body 10 or 10" in Zhang.

The Examiner, at page 9 of the Office Action in the Response to Arguments section, asserts that the reflector 11 and box 10 of Zhang are integral and therefore the supporting arms 311, 312 do engage the edge of the concave light-projecting surface 14 outside the opening thereof.

Zhang, however, discloses in Fig. 2. and paragraph [0028] that the four supporting walls 12 of the box 10 are integrally and perpendicularly connected together to form a box shape structure. Zhang, therefore, fails to disclose, teach or suggest "an edge of the continuous shell shape of the reflector defining a reflector opening which provides a light exit plane of the lamp" and "wherein the at least one functional element engages and extends around the edge of the continuous shell shape of the curved, essentially rotationally symmetrical reflector outside of the reflector opening", as expressly recited by Applicant's independent claim 1. Fig. 2 of Zhang shows the supporting legs 321, 322, which extend from the supporting arms 311, 312, extending parallel to the supporting walls 12 of the box 10. The supporting arms/legs of Zhang therefore

do not and cannot engage around and extend around the light-projecting surface 14 or box 10 and extend on a side of the light-projecting surface 14 or box 10 because of the supporting walls 12 of the box 10 in Zhang. The supporting arms/legs in Zhang are perpendicularly connected together to form the box shape structure and, thus, cannot engage around or extend around the reflector opening without destroying the perpendicular integrity of Zhang's box.

Even assuming, *arguendo*, the propriety of the Examiner's proffered combination of Zhang, Kai and Levy (which Applicant does not concede), Kai and Levy fail to cure the deficiencies of Zhang discussed above with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 1 is deemed to be patentably distinct over the cited art for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 2-27, which depend from claim 1, are deemed to be patentably distinct over the cited art for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, as well as on their own merits.

CONCLUSION

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and early notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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